

## Shorter Notes

A NEW FORM OF *MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE*.—A cultivated form of *Microlepia* that is a very graceful and delightful plant for greenhouses (and possibly outdoors in southern California) has been introduced rather recently. It was in cultivation in the Botanical Garden of Ajuda, Lisbon, Portugal, and material was brought back by Dr. F. G. Meyer to the Department of Agriculture, where it is in cultivation in Glenn Dale, Maryland (Plant Introduction no. 241,924). In Portugal it was passing as *Microlepia strigosa* (Thunb.) K. B. Presl cv. 'Cristata'; however, the plant is quite different from *M. strigosa*, which is a related species also in cultivation. In habit it is quite like the plumed form of the English Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina* cv. 'Corymbiferum' (cf. Druery, "British Ferns and Their Varieties," pl. 9). The new plant is a beautifully crested form of *M. speluncae* (L.) Moore, which has also long been in cultivation. *Microlepia strigosa* and *M. speluncae* can be distinguished by these characters:

Veins (at least in dried material) prominently raised on the lower surface; hairs of rachises and midribs coarse, mostly upwardly directed toward the apex of the pinnae; blades bipinnate or bipinnate-pinnatifid. . . . *M. strigosa*

Veins (at least in dried material) not raised above the surface beneath; hairs of rachises and midribs fine, horizontally spreading; blades tripinnate to quadripinnate. . . . . *M. speluncae*

*MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE* cv. '**Corymbifera**' Morton, cv. nov.

Main rachis 4- or 5-times forked, forming a plumelike tip; lateral pinnae mostly drooping, forked and plumose at the tips.

TYPE: Botanical Garden of Ajuda, Lisbon, Portugal, August 10, 1957, *F. G. Meyer 5096* (US 2,292,318).

This plant is also in cultivation at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania (Acc. no. 58,498), grown from material received from Meyer, *Wikoff 1200* (US 2,292,212-3), *Huttleston 2246*. Although the plant I have described is a recent introduction, the same thing may already be in cultivation in the United States, for I recall seeing similar forms in some greenhouses.—C. V. MORTON, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560*.





HOLOTYPE OF MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE CV. 'CORYMBIFERA'